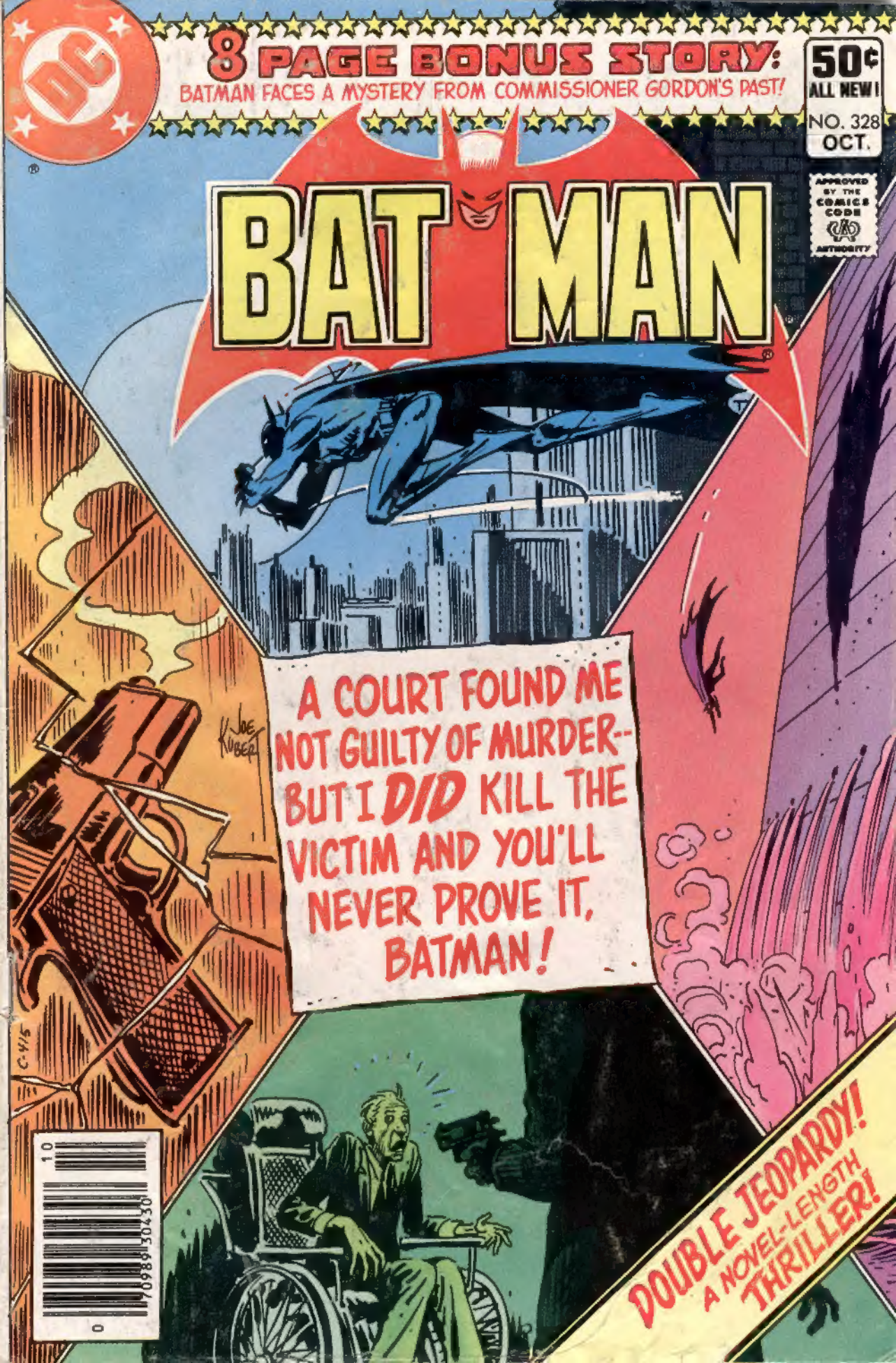
8 PAGE BONUS STORY:
BATMAN FACES A MYSTERY FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PAST!
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 328
OCT.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
A COURT FOUND ME NOT GUILTY OF MURDER-- BUT I DID KILL THE VICTIM AND YOU'LL NEVER PROVE IT, BATMAN!
JOE KUBERT
DOUBLE JEOPARDY! A NOVEL-LENGTH THRILLER!

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Right. Down to the last detail.

SOMBER DARKNESS FILLS THE BATCAVE, THEN, SUDDENLY, IT COMES ALIVE WITH FLICKERING LUMINESCENCE...
BATMAN! YOU'VE WITNESSED THE RE-ENACTMENT OF MY TRIAL--
YOU'VE SEEN ME ACQUITTED OF ANTON KAROSELLE'S MURDER BY A JURY OF MY PEERS...
BUT, I WANT YOU, BATMAN, YOU ABOVE ALL TO KNOW--NOT ONLY DID I KILL THAT MAN ONCE--
HA!
HA! HA!
--I KILLED HIM TWICE!!
BAT MAN
DOUBLE JEOPARDY
MARY WOLFMAN WRITER
IRV NOVICK & FRANK McLAUGHLIN ARTISTS
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
BEN ODA LETTERER
PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR

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KILLED HIM TWICE, SIR? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
QUIET, ALFRED. THERE'S MORE!
YOU HEARD ME, BATMAN. NOW THAT I AM A FREE MAN--
--NOW THAT I CAN NO LONGER BE TRIED TWICE FOR THE SAME CRIME--
--NOW THAT I AM PROTECTED BY THE LAWS GOVERNING DOUBLE JEOPARDY--
--NOW, I ADMIT MY GUILT!
HOW DO YOU FEEL, BATMAN, KNOWING THE LAWS OF JUSTICE WHICH YOU SO FERVENTLY PROTECT HAVE BEEN SO FLAGRANTLY FLOUTED?
HOW DO YOU FEEL, BATMAN, KNOWING THAT YOU ARE POWERLESS TO BRING AN ADMITTED MURDERER TO HIS KNEES?
HOW DO YOU FEEL, BATMAN? HOW DO YOU FEEL?
SUDDENLY, THE BATCAVE MOVIE SCREEN FADES TO WHITE...
ASTONISHING! AND DREADFULLY VILE!
SIR, CAN HE ACTUALLY GET AWAY WITH MURDER?
AND WHY WOULD HE INFORM YOU OF HIS DEED?
SURELY, HE MUST REALIZE YOU WOULD-- EH? THE MASTER'S ALREADY GONE!
ISN'T HARD TO GUESS WHY THAT FILM WAS SENT--HE OBVIOUSLY WANTS ME TO HUNT HIM DOWN...
WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT HE'S SET SOME SORT OF TRAP.
WELL, I'LL ONLY BE TOO GLAD TO ACCOMMODATE HIM--
--AFTER I'VE DONE A LITTLE BACK-GROUND RESEARCH!
POLICE HEADQUARTERS
PERFECT! THE RECORD MORGUE IS EMPTY... IT'S BEST IF NO ONE KNEW I WAS HERE TONIGHT.
WITH SOMEONE AFTER ME, THE FEWER OUTSIDERS WHO KNOW ABOUT IT, THE BETTER!
OFFICIAL CHANNELS CAN WAIT FOR A CRIME OF A LESS PERSONAL NATURE!
2

HMMM. HIS NAME'S CARL TERNION, AND I CAN CERTAINLY SEE WHY HE WAS ACQUITTED...
CORONER'S REPORT AND THE POLICE EYEWITNESS TRANSCRIPT DEFINITELY MAKE KAROSELLE'S DEATH APPEAR ACCIDENTAL.

LESTER GREENE IS A ROOKIE PATROLMAN RETURNING FROM A TIRING NIGHT SHIFT TOUR, THOUGH LESTER'S ONLY THOUGHTS ARE OF SLEEPING AWAY THE NIGHT'S PAIN...
...WHEN HE SEES A FAINT LIGHT PEEK FROM BENEATH A SUPPOSEDLY EMPTY ROOM...
HUH? LIGHT INSIDE THE RECORDS' ROOM? BUT THAT'S CLOSED?
RECORDS

CAUTIOUSLY, THE YOUNG ROOKIE UNLOCKS THE DOOR, AND...
DON'T THAT BEAT ALL! WINDOW'S OPEN... MUST'A BEEN THE MOONLIGHT I SAW...
YEAH, HADDA BE THE MOONLIGHT...
P-FU

NOBODY GOES INTO THAT ROOM THIS TIME OF NIGHT...
...AND CERTAINLY NOBODY CAME CLIMBING THROUGH A FOURTEENTH FLOOR WINDOW!

GOTHAM PARK SEEMS ALMOST TO GLOW BENEATH THE SHIMMERING MOONLIGHT. LONG SHADOWS RIPPLE ACROSS DIRT AND ROCK...
THIS IS SO PEACEFUL, CARL... I HAVEN'T BEEN ON A RIDE LIKE THIS SINCE HARVEY TOOK ME HERE

WE'D OFTEN COME HERE LATE AT NIGHT, RIDE THROUGH THE PARK TALK ABOUT ALL OUR FUTURE PLANS...
HARVEY WAS YOUR FIRST HUSBAND, WASN'T HE?
MY FIRST... THEN CAME DAVID... MY TWO MARRIAGES, I LOVED THEM BOTH... AND THEY WERE BOTH TAKEN FROM ME...

DID YOU KNOW THAT DAVID WAS HARVEY'S ASSISTANT? THAT'S HOW I FIRST MET HIM.
YES, GILDA, MY LOVE... I KNEW DAVID... AND HARVEY... AND MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER GUESS...

SHORTLY...
YOUR APARTMENT IS WARM AND LOVELY... JUST LIKE YOU, GILDA.
IT'S THE PLANTS... THEY MAKE THIS OLD PLACE COME ALIVE!
THEY ALMOST MAKE YOU FORGET THERE'S A COLD AND FRIENDLESS CITY OUTSIDE.
CARL, THERE'S SOMETHING I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. DAVE WAS KILLED...
BUT I DID KNOW HIM, GILDA... A LONG TIME AGO ...AND I CARED FOR HIM AS ONE FRIEND DEEPLY CARES FOR ANOTHER.
...AND YOU HUNTED DOWN HIS KILLER... YOU CONFRONTED HIM... ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIM. BUT WHY? WHY RISK THAT WHEN YOU DIDN'T KNOW DAVID?
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, WE HAD A FALLING OUT... ONE THAT FOOLISHLY KEPT US APART... BUT I KNEW HE WAS MARRIED TO YOU...
I KNEW HE WAS HAPPY, THAT HE WAS KEEPING YOU HAPPY... AND THEN, WHEN HE WAS KILLED, I FELT RAGE!
HIS KILLER LEFT YOU A LONELY WIDOW. I--I HAD TO DO SOMETHING... I HAD TO FIND HIS MURDERER AND MAKE HIM PAY!
I CAN'T APPROVE OF WHAT YOU DID.
BUT I DIDN'T GO AFTER KAROSELLE TO KILL HIM. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A WEAPON... GILDA... WHAT'S WRONG, MY LOVE?
OH, CARL-- HARVEY IS GONE... DAVID IS DEAD... AND I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A JONAH...
... LIKE THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDER WHOSE LOVE KILLS THE ONE SHE'S WITH. I'M SO AFRAID, CARL... AFRAID OF BEING ALONE...
YOU WON'T EVER HAVE TO BE ALONE AGAIN. I'LL BE HERE... ALWAYS...
WE'LL NEVER BE SEPARATED, GILDA--
--NOT ONCE I'VE SLAIN THE BATMAN!
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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DARK, TWISTING SHADOWS CURL OMINOUSLY THROUGH THE GRIMY STREETS OF CRIME ALLEY. THICK, STIFLING BLACKNESS SEEMS EVERYWHERE...
MARY ANN?
AH, LADDIE, 'TIS YE!
Y'FAIR GAVE ME A SPOOK WON'DRIN' WHO'D BE SNEAKIN' OWT'N THESE FORSAKEN STREETS.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO BE OUT HERE, MARY ANN.
AN' FORFEIT ME BEST COLLECTIN' HOURS? LADDIE, YE SHOULD KNOO BETTER B'NOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAVE TO RUMMAGE. I CAN--
LADDIE, AIN'T NOTHIN' YE CAN DO FUH ME. CAN YE HELP T'FOIND ME SUCH UH BEAUTY OF UH LAMP THAT THE SALVATION ARMY WOULD PAY ME TEN BUCKS? NAY! I DIN NEED YE FER THAT!
NOW, YE AIN'T COME ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE TCHAT...
GOOD FRIENDS CAN'T TALK BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS?
WITH YE, LAD, BUSINESS MEANS DANGER, AN' DANGER MEANS YE HAD BETTER RUSH, SO SPEAK UP AN' GET ON WITH IT.
THREE WEEKS AGO A MAN NAMED KAROSELLE WAS KILLED. ANOTHER MAN, CARL TERNION, WAS TRIED AND ACQUITTED FOR THAT MURDER.
ONLY, TERNION DID MURDER KAROSELLE. I HAVE TO PROVE IT.
FAITH! NEITHER NAME STRIKES ME MEMORY-- WHICH AIN'T ALL THAT GOOD THESE DAYS ANYWAY...
...BUT I'LL BE PUTTIN' OUT THE WORD, AND I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YE-- THE USUAL WAY.
I'D APPRECIATE IT, MARY ANN.
THINK NOTHIN' OF IT, LADDIE. I STILL OWE YE FER ALL YE'VE DONE FUH THIS OLD BAG 'A BONES!
ONCE AGAIN THE SHADOWS TWIST. THEN, IN A MOMENT, THEY ARE STILL...
6

HOME, A GLEAMING PENTHOUSE APARTMENT HIGH ABOVE THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...
HOW DID THE INVESTIGATION FARE, SIR?
FRANKLY, ALFRED, IT'S A PUZZLE!
ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT, TERNION AND KAROSELLE HAD NEVER MET OR KNOWN EACH OTHER BEFORE THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER.
THERE SEEMED NO DISCERNABLE MOTIVE OTHER THAN THE ONE TERNION HIMSELF GAVE.
WHICH WAS--?
A MURDER KAROSELLE SUPPOSEDLY COMMITTED ...ANOTHER MURDER WITHOUT A MOTIVE.
"THE POLICE REPORT STATES TERNION ENTERED KAROSELLE'S MANSION DIRECTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT...
WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
YOU'RE ANTON KAROSELLE?
YOU GOT IT, BUDDY--NOW, WHO ARE YOU?
CALL ME YOUR ACCUSER. YOU MURDERED DISTRICT ATTORNEY DAVID STEVENS.
YOU'RE MAD! I'M A CRIPPLE! EVEN IF I KNEW THIS STEVENS, I COULDN'T KILL HIM.
YOU'RE PLAYING GAMES, KAROSELLE. I HAVE PROOF!
ANTON KAROSELLE? THAT NAME DOESN'T SEEM FAMILIAR, SIR.
NOR TO ME, ALFRED. I'M RUNNING IT THROUGH THE BATCAVE COMPUTERS EVEN NOW.
ACCORDING TO THE POLICE AND TERNION, KAROSELLE DID NOT TAKE THIS ACCUSATION WELL...
YOU'RE A FOOL, MAN. WHATEVER YOU MAY KNOW--
--WILL REMAIN THE SECRET OF A DEAD TRESPASSER IN MY HOME!
BAM-BAM!
NOT IF YOU CAN'T HIT ME, KAROSELLE!
6

OH, I'LL DO MORE THAN JUST HIT YOU, MISTER--
I'LL MAKE CERTAIN YOU'LL NEVER REVEAL WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ME.
BAM!
BAM!
YOU'RE TOO LATE FOR THAT, MY FRIEND. I HAD TO SNEAK PAST A POLICE CORDON TO GET TO YOU--
YOU WERE DOOMED EVEN BEFORE I CAME HERE!
BAM!
NO!
"A STRAY BULLET...
"I ACCIDENTALLY SHEARED THE ROD HOLDING UP KAROSELLE'S CHANDELIER..
KE-RASH!
"AND, AS THE POLICE ENTERED, THEY FOUND KAROSELLE DEAD!"
YOU SAY THE POLICE WERE ALREADY OBSERVING KAROSELLE'S MANSION?
THEIR INVESTIGATION OF DAVE STEVENS' MURDER LED THEM TO KAROSELLE.
THEY SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, AND IT WAS THE POLICE TESTIMONY THAT FINALLY CLEARED CARL TERNION.
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THIS TERNION FELLOW JUST MIGHT BE INNOCENT?
NORMALLY I'D SAY SO, EXCEPT FOR THE FILM HE SENT ME.
ALSO, IF HE KNEW THE POLICE HAD FOUND KAROSELLE-- WHY SNEAK IN PAST THEM?
NO, CARL TERNION DELIBERATELY MURDERED KAROSELLE ... AND I HAVE TO PROVE IT!
7

HE SITS... A SOMBER SILHOUETTE, FRAMED IN THE GLOW OF A FULL PALE MOON.
... BY THE GHOULISH RAPPING OF FLESH POUNDING FLESH.
FOR LONG MOMENTS HE SILENTLY STARES INTO THE DARKNESS, A THOUSAND THOUGHTS SCRAMBLING THROUGH HIS MIND
SUDDENLY, HIS MENTAL MUSINGS ARE INTERRUPTED
PUNKS BEATING ON AN INNOCENT CITIZEN. YOU SCUM MAKE ME SICK!
THERE MUST BE SOME LOGIC TO THIS CRIME, SOME KEY TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERY. BUT WHERE? WHAT?
AND IT'S ONLY WHEN YOU STUMBLE ACROSS SOMEONE BIGGER THAN YOU THAT YOU SCURRY BACK TO THE RATHOLES YOU SQUIRMED OUT OF!
WHAKK!
BLAM!
WELL, THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT RUNNING OFF!
SUDDENLY, THE BATMAN HEARS A FAINT GROAN FROM BEHIND HIM...
MARY ANN? I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU.
SAVED ME AGAIN, EH, LADDIE? YER MAKIN' A HABIT OUT OF IT, EH?
YOU'RE BLEEDING ... I'VE GOT TO GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
WAIT, LADDIE, 'EAR ME OUT. THEY CAME AFTER ME FUH ASKIN' QUESTIONS..
. I FOUND ... FOUND OUT... EKK .. EKKK . OUT ... EKKK .. OUTTTT .. UNNHHH..
DON'T TALK .. YOU'VE GOT TO REST.
8

NTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

HAWKMAN™ in "SHE'S NO ANGEL"
THE GOLDEN STATUE OF A RAVEN CERTAINLY ADDS CLASS TO RAVENSWOOD SQUARE!!!
BUT THE MIGHTY HAWKMAN IS SWEPT OFF HIS COURSE..
FALCONS . DIVE-BOMBING ME LIKE A SQUAD OF FEATHERED WARPLANES
...AND FLOWN TO A PARAPET HIGH ABOVE THE PLAZA.
THEY'RE YOUR TRAINED PIGEONS, GOLDEN RAVEN?
YES, MINE! AND THEY'LL HOLD YOU HERE UNTIL THE GOLD STATUE IN RAVENSWOOD SQUARE IS ALSO MINE.
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO DISSUADE HER FROM HER NEFARIOUS PURPOSE...WHILE THESE BIRDS ARE HOLDING ME HERE... GOT IT!
THE GOLDEN STATUE IS WITHIN MY GRASP! WHA... HOSTESS FRUIT PIES. APPLE AND CHERRY.
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THE COURTS WILL SOON CLIP YOUR WINGS, GOLDEN RAVEN
THOSE HOSTESS FRUIT PIES WERE SO GOOD THEY TOOK MY MIND OFF MY BIRDS... AND MY HANDS OFF THE STATUE.
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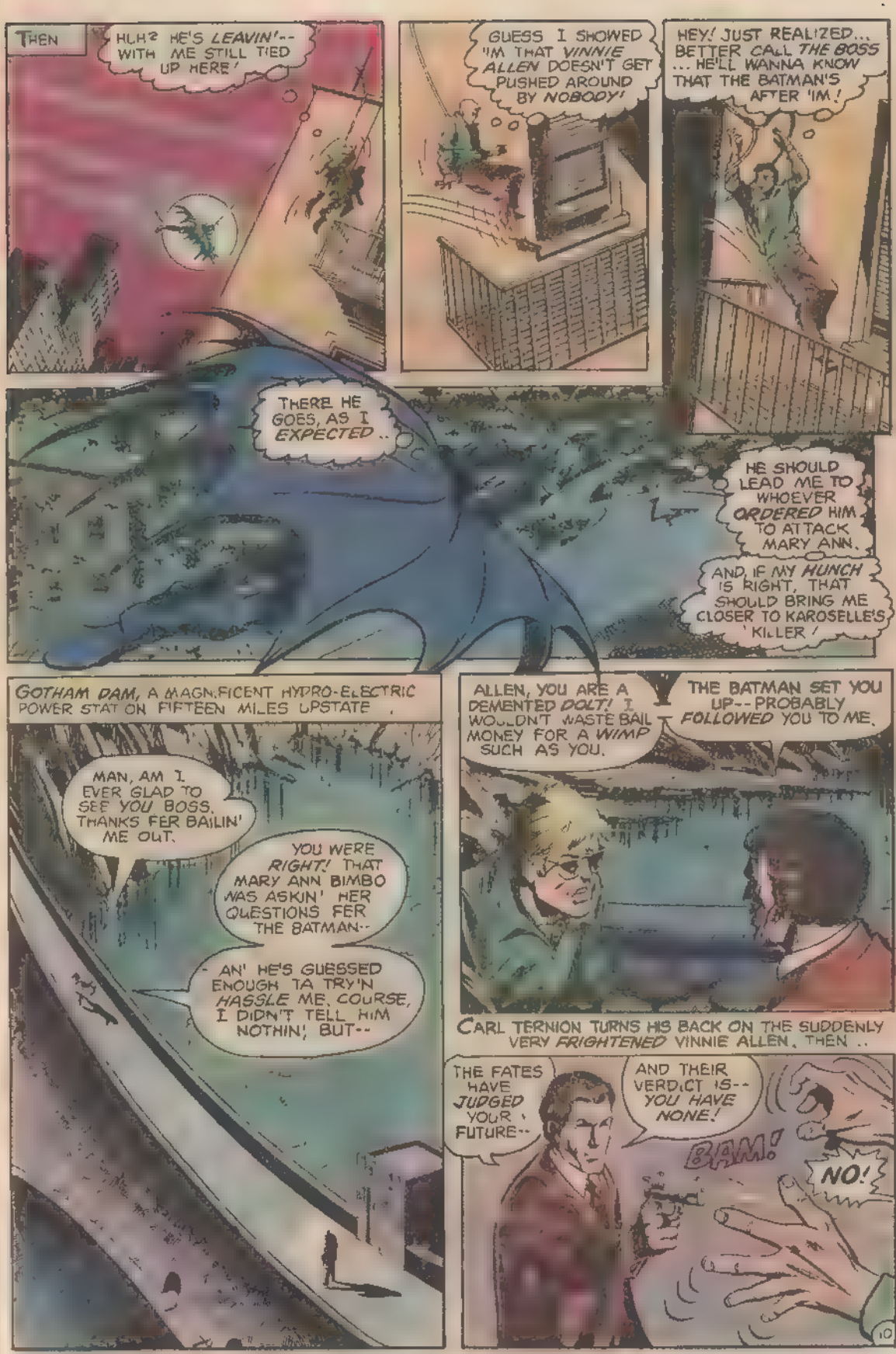
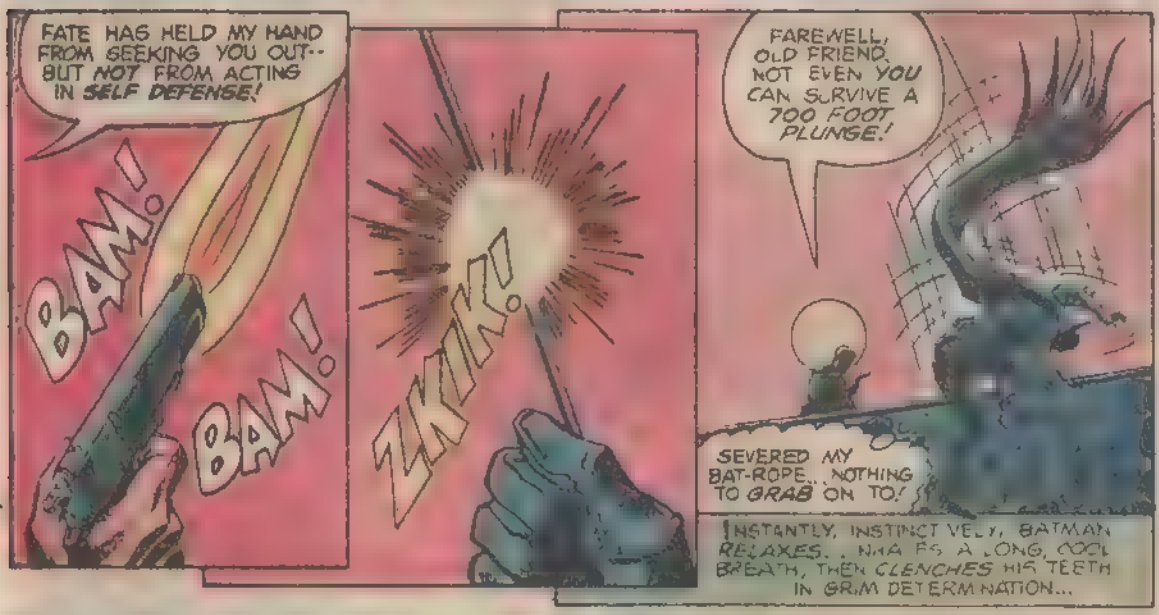
SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS.. HER BREATHING'S LABORED... IN SHORT SPORADIC GASPS.
SHE'S GOING INTO SHOCK... GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY...
GRIMLY, THE BATMAN GLIDES PAST THE JUTTING SKYSCRAPERS CROWDING MIDTOWN GOTHAM THEN...
BREATHING'S SLOWING DOWN... AM I TOO LATE?
GOTHAM HOSPITAL
SHORTLY...
WELL--?
THREE RIBS ARE CRACKED, HEAVY BLOOD LOSS, SHE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS, BUT I BELIEVE YOU GOT HER HERE IN TIME.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAVE HER!
18
THANKS, DOC!
BATMAN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO MAKE CERTAIN SOMEONE PAYS FOR THIS OUTRAGE!
LATER, AT GOTHAM CRIMINAL COURT.
HE'S OBVIOUSLY THE LEADER OF THAT RAGTAG BUNCH OF HOODLUMS... SO LET'S SEE IF PAYING HIS BAIL DOES WHAT I'M HOPING.
AND A MOMENT LATER
WHAT IN--?
YOU?!?
I HAVE QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS
WHY DID YOU ATTACK MARY ANN?
SHOVE OFF, BATMAN. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING, AND YOU CAN'T MAKE ME TALK.
FOR ALMOST A FULL MINUTE THE BATMAN STARES MUTELY AT THE GRINNING GANG LEADER.
9


THEN
HUH? HE'S LEAVIN'-- WITH ME STILL TIED UP HERE!
GUESS I SHOWED 'IM THAT VINNIE ALLEN DOESN'T GET PUSHED AROUND BY NOBODY!
HEY! JUST REALIZED... BETTER CALL THE BOSS ... HE'LL WANNA KNOW THAT THE BATMAN'S AFTER 'IM!
THERE HE GOES, AS I EXPECTED..
HE SHOULD LEAD ME TO WHOEVER ORDERED HIM TO ATTACK MARY ANN.
AND, IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, THAT SHOULD BRING ME CLOSER TO KAROSELLE'S KILLER!
GOTHAM DAM, A MAGNIFICENT HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION FIFTEEN MILES UPSTATE.
MAN, AM I EVER GLAD TO SEE YOU BOSS. THANKS FER BAILIN' ME OUT.
YOU WERE RIGHT! THAT MARY ANN BIMBO WAS ASKIN' HER QUESTIONS FER THE BATMAN--
AN' HE'S GUESSED ENOUGH TA TRY'N HASSLE ME. COURSE, I DIDN'T TELL HIM NOTHIN', BUT--
ALLEN, YOU ARE A DEMENTED DOLT! I WOULDN'T WASTE BAIL MONEY FOR A WIMP SUCH AS YOU.
THE BATMAN SET YOU UP-- PROBABLY FOLLOWED YOU TO ME.
CARL TERNION TURNS HIS BACK ON THE SUDDENLY VERY FRIGHTENED VINNIE ALLEN. THEN..
THE FATES HAVE JUDGED YOUR FUTURE--
AND THEIR VERDICT IS-- YOU HAVE NONE!
BAM!
NO!

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MET!
CARL TERN ON, I PRESUME?
STILL -YOU'RE ATTACKING ME, AND THAT IS WHAT I WANTED!
THIS ISN'T QUITE WHAT I HAD INTENDED--BUT ONE MUST LEARN TO MAKE DO, EH?

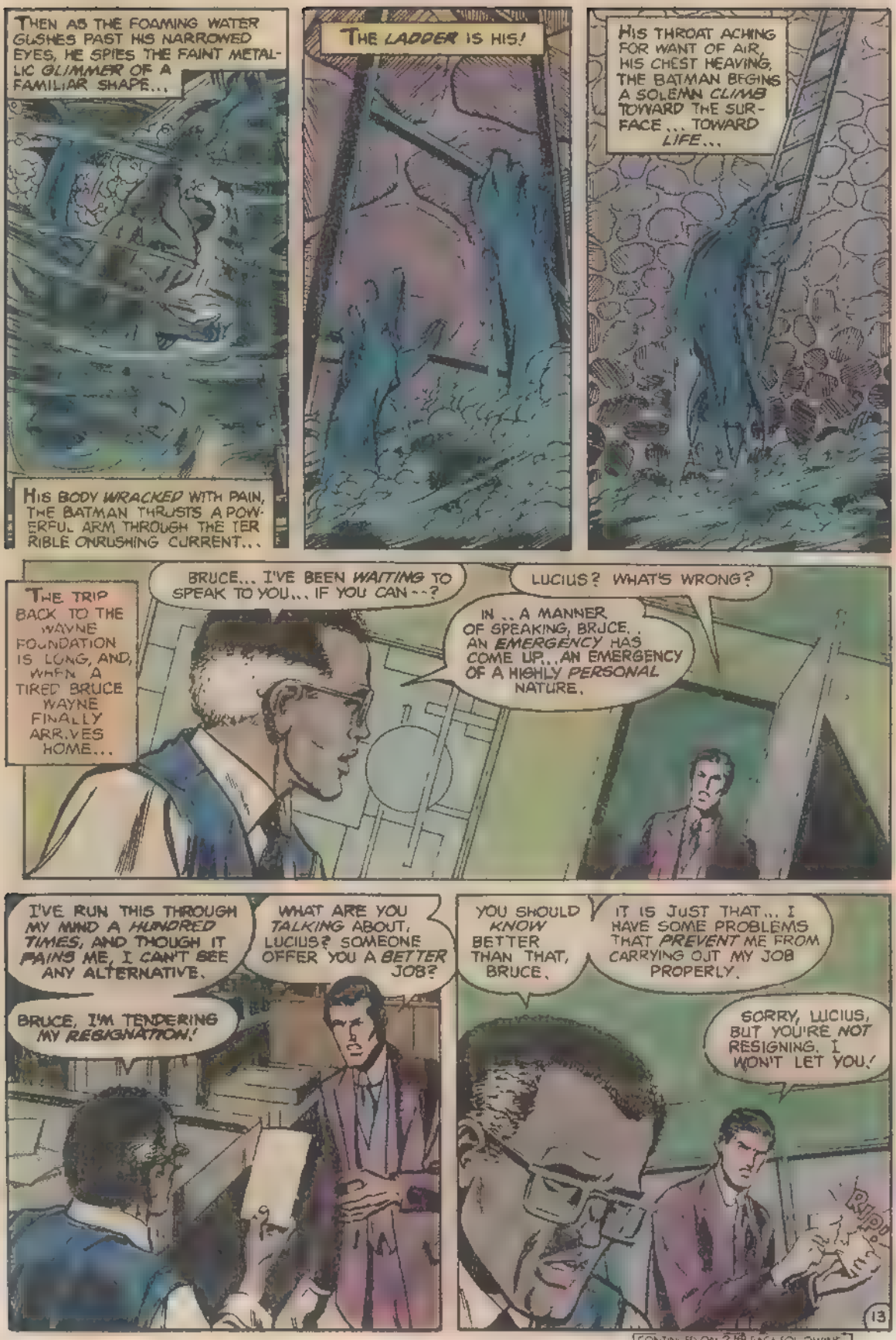

FATE HAS HELD MY HAND FROM SEEKING YOU OUT-- BUT NOT FROM ACTING IN SELF DEFENSE!
BAM!
BAM!
ZKIK!
FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND. NOT EVEN YOU CAN SURVIVE A 700 FOOT PLUNGE!
SEVERED MY BAT-ROPE... NOTHING TO GRAB ON TO!
INSTANTLY, INSTINCTIVELY, BATMAN RELAXES... THEN A LONG, COOL BREATH, THEN CLENCHES HIS TEETH IN GRIM DETERMINATION...

FOR LONG MOMENTS HE SEEMINGLY GLIDES DOWNWARD THEN, ALL AT ONCE BATMAN TWISTS HIS LITHE BODY LEFTWARD, JERKING IT TOWARD THE DAM'S REINFORCEMENT RODS NOW DIRECTLY BELOW.

HIS POWERFUL ARMS STRETCH OUTWARD AS MUSCLES BUNCH AND TENSE HE PREPARES HIMSELF TO ACCEPT THE SUDDEN, JOLTING PAIN
AND IN AN EXPLOSIVE INSTANT IT COMES!

BATMAN, YOU TRULY ASTOUND AND CONFOUND ME. ONLY YOU COULD HAVE SAVED YOURSELF IN SUCH A GRAND MANNER!
STILL, YOU'VE ONLY GIVEN YOURSELF A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE!

A MOMENT LATER, INSIDE THE DAM'S BLOCKHOUSE...
EVEN NOW FATE PREVENTS ME FROM KILLING HIM OUTRIGHT!
BUT, I CAN STILL OFFER HIM AN EVEN CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL--
--PROVIDING, OF COURSE, HE CAN SURVIVE BEING DELUGED BY A THOUSAND TONS OF RAVAGING WATER!!
KROOAA
HE'S OPENED THE SPILLWAY, AS I EXPECTED...
WELL, AT LEAST MY REBREATHER WILL PREVENT ME FROM DROWNING, IF NOT FROM BEING CRUSHED!
MENTALLY, THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE COUNTS OFF THE PRECIOUS SECONDS..
THEN, AS THE WATER ALL BUT ENGULFS HIM, HE DIVES HEADLONG INTO THE ONRUSHING WAVE..
KRR-WOSH!
LIKE A PRACTICED SURFER, HE TWISTS HIS BODY WITH THE WATER'S FLOW...
HIS ACHING MUSCLES GUIDE HIM FORWARD AS HIS REBREATHER SPENDS ITS LAST..
12


THEN AS THE FOAMING WATER GUSHES PAST HIS NARROWED EYES, HE SPIES THE FAINT METALLIC GLIMMER OF A FAMILIAR SHAPE...
HIS BODY WRACKED WITH PAIN, THE BATMAN THRUSTS A POWERFUL ARM THROUGH THE TERRIBLE ONRUSHING CURRENT...
THE LADDER IS HIS!
HIS THROAT ACHING FOR WANT OF AIR, HIS CHEST HEAVING, THE BATMAN BEGINS A SOLEMN CLIMB TOWARD THE SURFACE... TOWARD LIFE...
THE TRIP BACK TO THE WAYNE FOUNDATION IS LONG, AND, WHEN A TIRED BRUCE WAYNE FINALLY ARRIVES HOME...
BRUCE... I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SPEAK TO YOU... IF YOU CAN--?
LUCIUS? WHAT'S WRONG?
IN... A MANNER OF SPEAKING, BRUCE... AN EMERGENCY HAS COME UP... AN EMERGENCY OF A HIGHLY PERSONAL NATURE.
I'VE RUN THIS THROUGH MY MIND A HUNDRED TIMES, AND THOUGH IT PAINS ME, I CAN'T SEE ANY ALTERNATIVE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LUCIUS? SOMEONE OFFER YOU A BETTER JOB?
BRUCE, I'M TENDERING MY RESIGNATION!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, BRUCE.
IT IS JUST THAT... I HAVE SOME PROBLEMS THAT PREVENT ME FROM CARRYING OUT MY JOB PROPERLY.
SORRY, LUCIUS, BUT YOU'RE NOT RESIGNING. I WON'T LET YOU!
RIP!
13
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

RICHIE RICH IN FATHER KNOWS BEST

THE POOR LITTLE RICH BOY

HOW DID WE GET TO BE RICH DAD?

AS A BOY I SOLD GRIT, RICHIE. IT'S AMERICA'S ONLY NATIONAL FULL FAMILY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. LOTS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE GOT THEIR START SELLING GRIT

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In Care of .....

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Town ..... State ..... ZIP .....

Age ..... Date of Birth ..... Month Day Year

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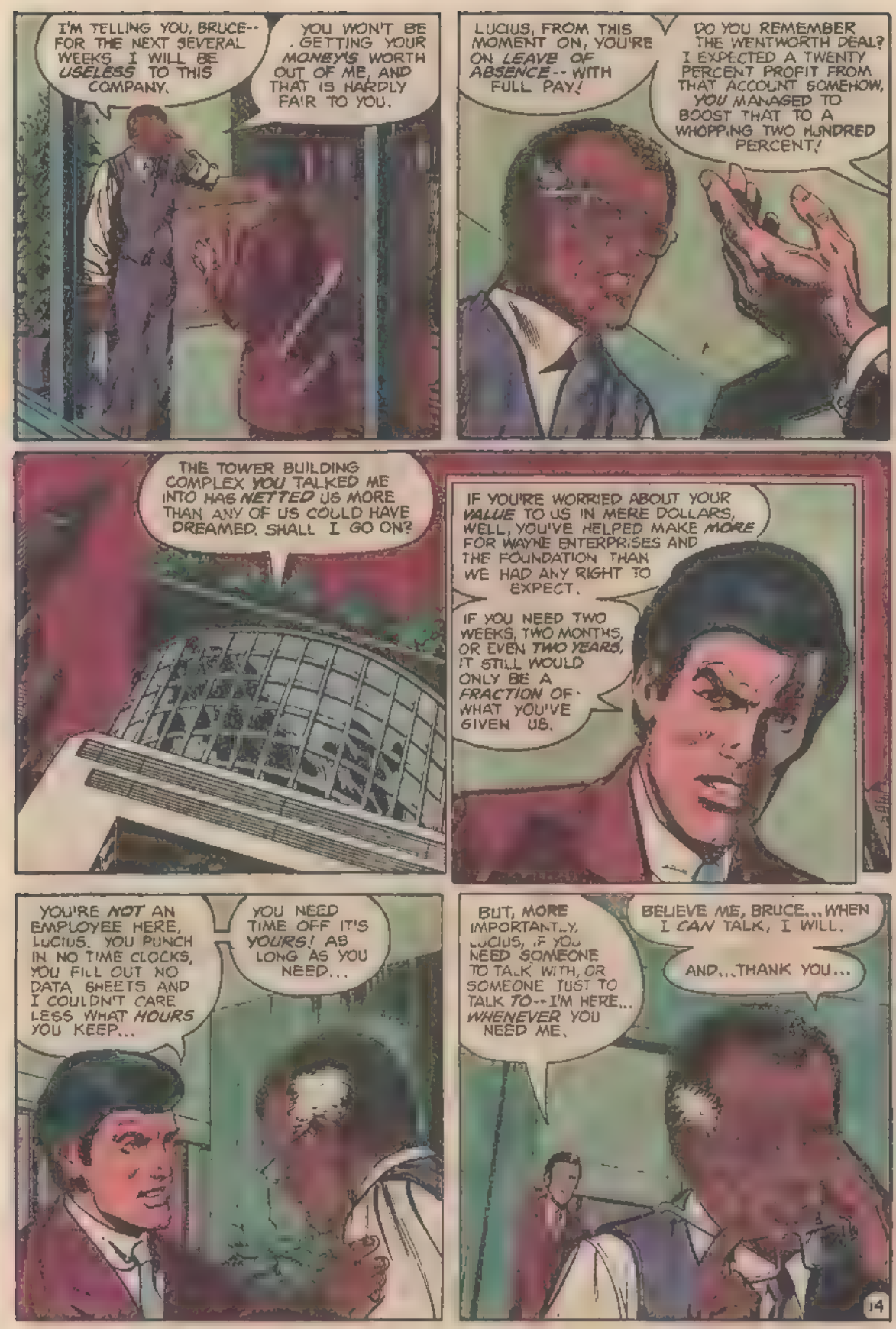
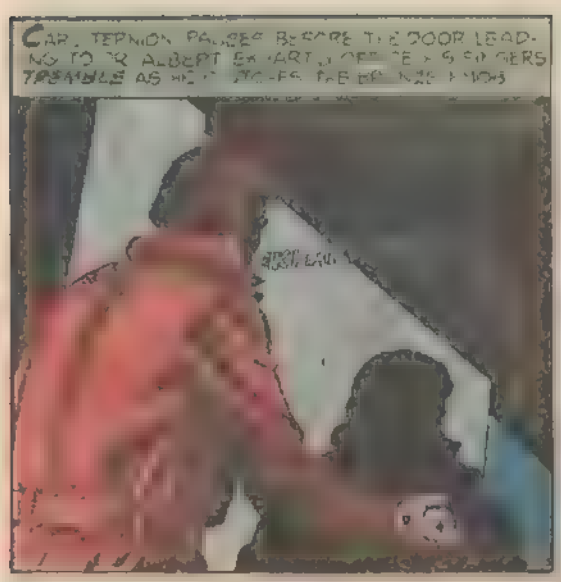
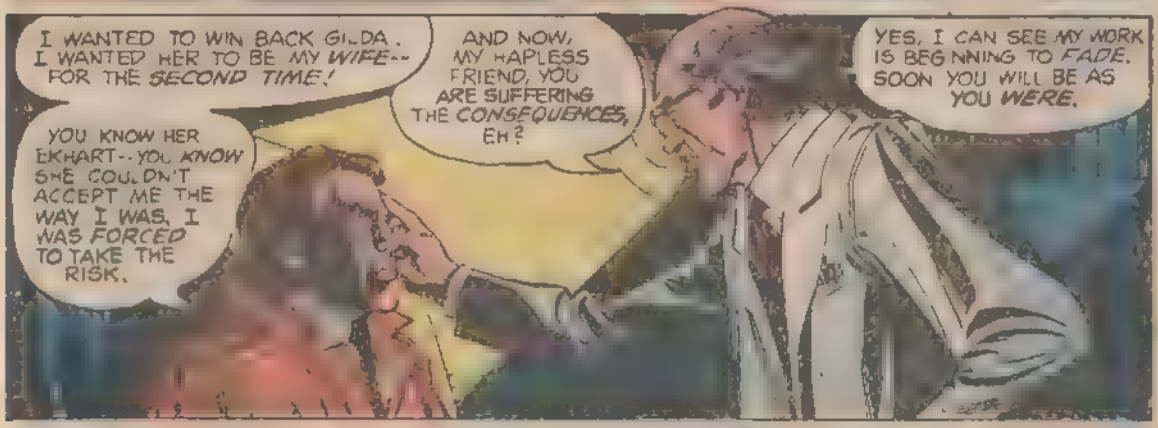
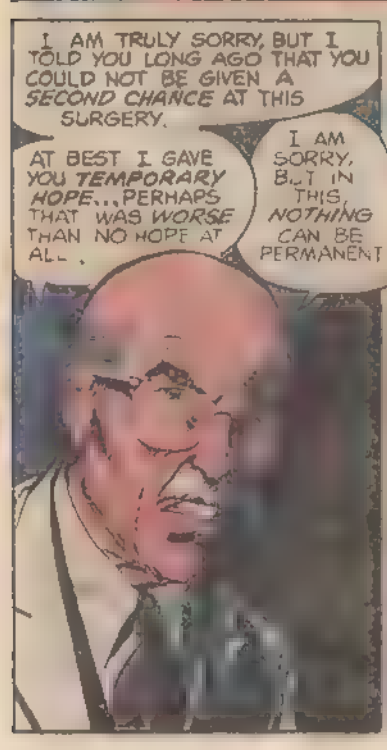
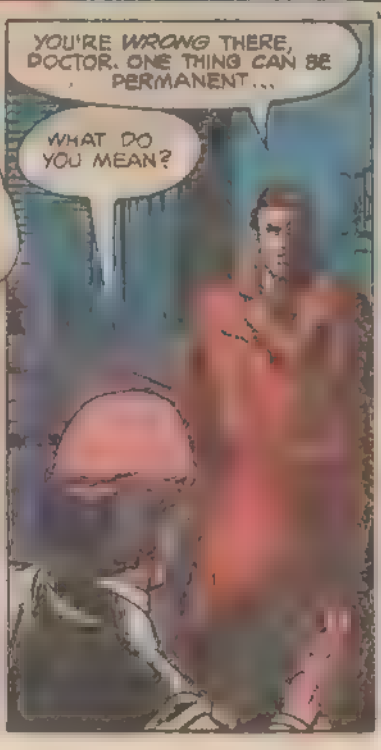

I'M TELLING YOU, BRUCE-- FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS I WILL BE USELESS TO THIS COMPANY.
YOU WON'T BE GETTING YOUR MONEY'S WORTH OUT OF ME, AND THAT IS HARDLY FAIR TO YOU.
LUCIUS, FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU'RE ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE -- WITH FULL PAY!
DO YOU REMEMBER THE WENTWORTH DEAL? I EXPECTED A TWENTY PERCENT PROFIT FROM THAT ACCOUNT SOMEHOW, YOU MANAGED TO BOOST THAT TO A WHOPPING TWO HUNDRED PERCENT!
THE TOWER BUILDING COMPLEX YOU TALKED ME INTO HAS NETTED US MORE THAN ANY OF US COULD HAVE DREAMED. SHALL I GO ON?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR VALUE TO US IN MERE DOLLARS, WELL, YOU'VE HELPED MAKE MORE FOR WAYNE ENTERPRISES AND THE FOUNDATION THAN WE HAD ANY RIGHT TO EXPECT.
IF YOU NEED TWO WEEKS, TWO MONTHS, OR EVEN TWO YEARS, IT STILL WOULD ONLY BE A FRACTION OF WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN US.
YOU'RE NOT AN EMPLOYEE HERE, LUCIUS. YOU PUNCH IN NO TIME CLOCKS, YOU FILL OUT NO DATA SHEETS AND I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT HOURS YOU KEEP...
YOU NEED TIME OFF IT'S YOURS! AS LONG AS YOU NEED...
BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, LUCIUS, IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK WITH, OR SOMEONE JUST TO TALK TO -- I'M HERE... WHENEVER YOU NEED ME.
BELIEVE ME, BRUCE... WHEN I CAN TALK, I WILL.
AND... THANK YOU...

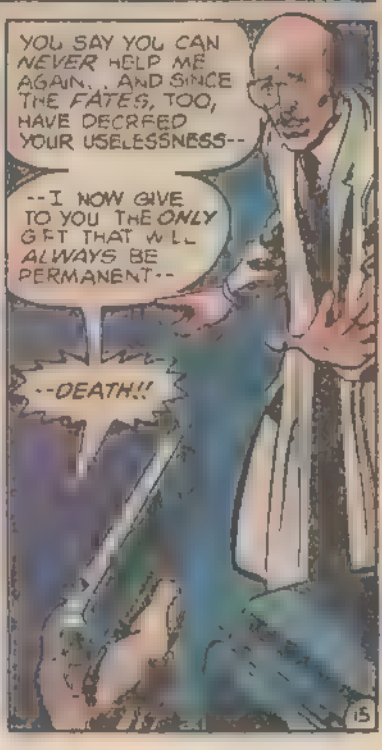

CAR. TERNION PAUSES BEFORE THE DOOR LEADING TO DR ALBERT EKHART'S OFFICE. SPIDERS TREMBLE AS HE PASSES THE

ALL TOO SOON TERNION WILL KNOW WHETHER HE HOLDS A HOPEFUL FUTURE OR IF HE IS FORCED TO REMAIN A VICTIM OF HIS OWN, TWISTED PAST...
EKHART, I'M NOT CERTAIN, BUT THE SURGERY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HOLDING
I WARNED YOU OF THAT CHANCE, DIDN'T I?
YES. BUT I HAD NO CHOICE, DID I?


I WANTED TO WIN BACK GILDA. I WANTED HER TO BE MY WIFE-- FOR THE SECOND TIME!
YOU KNOW HER EKHART-- YOU KNOW SHE COULDN'T ACCEPT ME THE WAY I WAS. I WAS FORCED TO TAKE THE RISK.
AND NOW, MY HAPLESS FRIEND, YOU ARE SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES, EH?
YES, I CAN SEE MY WORK IS BEGINNING TO FADE. SOON YOU WILL BE AS YOU WERE.


I AM TRULY SORRY, BUT I TOLD YOU LONG AGO THAT YOU COULD NOT BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT THIS SURGERY.
AT BEST I GAVE YOU TEMPORARY HOPE... PERHAPS THAT WAS WORSE THAN NO HOPE AT ALL.
I AM SORRY. BUT IN THIS, NOTHING CAN BE PERMANENT.


YOU'RE WRONG THERE, DOCTOR. ONE THING CAN BE PERMANENT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


YOU SAY YOU CAN NEVER HELP ME AGAIN... AND SINCE THE FATES, TOO, HAVE DECREED YOUR USELESSNESS--
--I NOW GIVE TO YOU THE ONLY GIFT THAT WILL ALWAYS BE PERMANENT--
--DEATH!!

GOTHAM PIER... 2:30 IN THE MORNING...
YOU CALLED ME, COMMISSIONER?
TWO WITNESSES SAW SOMEONE BEING DUMPED HERE LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.
WE HAVE A TEAM OF DIVERS WHO -- AHHH, THERE THEY ARE.
HE'S DEAD, SIR... TWO BULLETS THROUGH THE HEAD.
BRING HIM UP... WE'LL HAVE TO VERIFY IDENTIFICATION.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT, COMMISSIONER-- I KNOW THIS MAN.
AND I ALSO NOW KNOW WHAT MARY ANN WAS TRYING TO TELL ME... EKK OUTTT-- EKHART. THIS MAN IS DR. ALBERT EKHART, THE FAMED PLASTIC SURGEON.
IT'S TAKEN AWHILE, BUT SUDDENLY EVERYTHING'S FALLEN INTO PLACE. I KNOW WHO OUR KILLER IS.
BATMAN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO FIND A MURDERER, COMMISSIONER--AND TO SHOW HIM JUST HOW FAR HIS DOUBLE JEOPARDY ROUTINE WILL GET HIM!

AND, IN THE APARTMENT OF GILDA STEVENS...
WHAT'S WRONG, HONEY? YOU LOOK ILL!
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS, CARL? THE POLICE JUST FOUND THE BODY OF DR. EKHART. HE WAS...KILLED...
EKHART.
HE... WAS A PLASTIC SURGEON... HE'S THE ONE WHO HELPED MY FIRST HUSBAND... MANY YEARS AGO.
HE GAVE HARVEY AND ME SUCH HOPE...
I FEEL SO ALONE, CARL ...SO VERY ALONE...
AND NOW... NOW HE'S GONE, TOO.. JUST LIKE HARVEY... JUST LIKE DAVE!
ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE I ONCE KNEW ARE EITHER DEAD OR GONE...
NOT ALL, MY LOVELY GILDA... THERE'S STILL ONE WHO LIVES.. BUT, NOT FOR LONG.
AND, ONCE I KILL THE BATMAN--THEN NOBODY WILL BE LEFT TO PREVENT YOU FROM BECOMING MY WIFE--
--FOR THE SECOND TIME!!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

NEXT ISSUE

A YILLAIN FROM BATMAN'S PAST RETURNS TO THREATEN HIS FUTURE:

TWICE DIES THE BATMAN!

ON SALE AUGUST 11TH!

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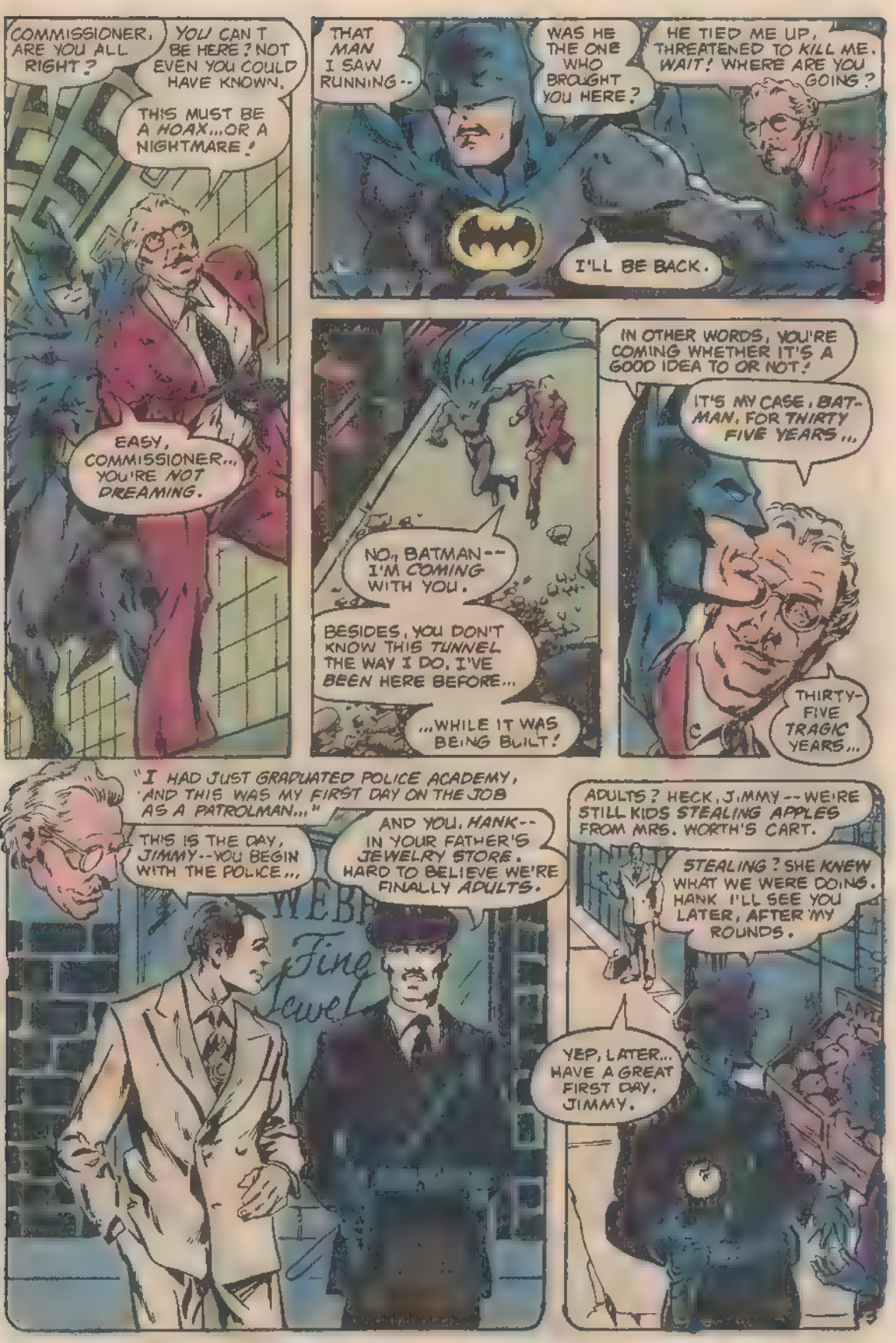
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

GRIMLY, HE GLIDED
ALFRED! I'M BACK.
ALFRED!
M-MASTER BRUCE...
SIR...I DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE THIS, BUT--
ALFRED! WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT IS IT, ALFRED? WHAT'S WRONG?
SIR--IMPOSSIBLE AS IT MAY SOUND--
THE BATCAVE IS HAUNTED!

A TALE of TIME PAST!

IT SOUNDS DAFT AND I KNOW IT--
--BUT, SIR... I HEARD A KNOCKING THROUGH THE WALLS THEMSELVES...
A KNOCKING ...AND A FRIGHTFUL MOANING CRY...
SHOW ME, ALFRED!
YOU BELIEVE ME, SIR?
DO YOU HAVE TO ASK?
THEY CAME FROM ALL THE WAY IN BACK, SIR--AWAY FROM THE MAIN CAVE.
HERE?
YES, SIR.
THE CAVE WALL HERE IS ONLY INCHES THICK.
IF YOU HEARD RAPPING, IT'S LIKELY SOMEONE IS IN TROUBLE ON THE OTHER SIDE.
OTHER SIDE? BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE, SIR?
THE BATMAN DOES NOT ANSWER. INSTEAD, HE BELTS HIMSELF INTO THE BATMOBILE...
...GUNS ITS MIGHTY ENGINES...
AND.
THE BATMAN--HERE? B-BUT HOW--?
KRASSHH!
FOR YEARS CRIMINALS HAVE BELIEVED THE BATMAN TO BE SOME SORT OF DEMON WHO SEES ALL... KNOWS ALL... AVENGES ALL.
FOR YEARS, JAMES GORDON HAS SCOFFED AT THIS SUPERNATURAL CONCEPT.
TODAY, FAR BELOW GOTHAM CITY, FAR AWAY FROM WHERE ANY ORDINARY MAN HAS ANY RIGHT TO BE... JAMES GORDON IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT HE BELIEVES...


COMMISSIONER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T BE HERE? NOT EVEN YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN.
THIS MUST BE A HOAX...OR A NIGHTMARE!
EASY, COMMISSIONER... YOU'RE NOT DREAMING.
THAT MAN I SAW RUNNING--
WAS HE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE?
HE TIED ME UP, THREATENED TO KILL ME. WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'LL BE BACK.
NO, BATMAN-- I'M COMING WITH YOU.
BESIDES, YOU DON'T KNOW THIS TUNNEL THE WAY I DO. I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...
...WHILE IT WAS BEING BUILT!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE COMING WHETHER IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO OR NOT!
IT'S MY CASE, BATMAN, FOR THIRTY FIVE YEARS...
THIRTY-FIVE TRAGIC YEARS...
"I HAD JUST GRADUATED POLICE ACADEMY, AND THIS WAS MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB AS A PATROLMAN..."
THIS IS THE DAY, JIMMY--YOU BEGIN WITH THE POLICE...
AND YOU, HANK-- IN YOUR FATHER'S JEWELRY STORE. HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE FINALLY ADULTS.
ADULTS? HECK, JIMMY--WE'RE STILL KIDS STEALING APPLES FROM MRS. WORTH'S CART.
STEALING? SHE KNEW WHAT WE WERE DOING. HANK I'LL SEE YOU LATER, AFTER MY ROUNDS.
YEP, LATER... HAVE A GREAT FIRST DAY, JIMMY.

"DON'T ASK ME HOW I SENSED IT, BUT EVEN BEFORE I SAW IT, I KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED..."
HANK! MY GOD--HANK--!
JIMMY... FILLED HIS BAG... RINGS... GOLD... DIAMONDS.
G-GUESS I'M YOUR FIRST CASE, JIMMY--
D-DO GOOD, PAL--DO GOOD FOR ME.
NO, HANK--HANK!?!
"MY HEART-BEAT SOUNDED LIKE CANNON-FIRE AS I RACED AFTER HANK'S KILLER.
"FINALLY, I FOUND HIM, BUT..."
BLAM
I REACHED FOR ANYTHING CLOSE ME.
"AND I CHASED HIM..."
"--AND THEN I STOPPED HIS KILLING DAYS FOREVER..."
IT WAS THEN I FIRST NOTICED HE DIDN'T HAVE THE JEWELS ON HIM. HE HAD HID THEM SOMEWHERE...
BUT HE WOULDN'T ...MAYBE COULDN'T TELL ME WHERE. YOU SEE, BY THE TIME I STOPPED HIM--HE WAS A GIBBERING MADMAN!

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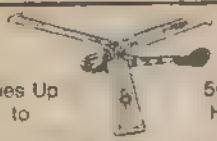

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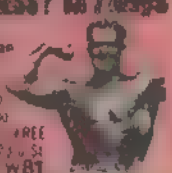

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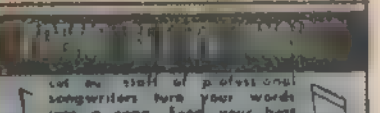

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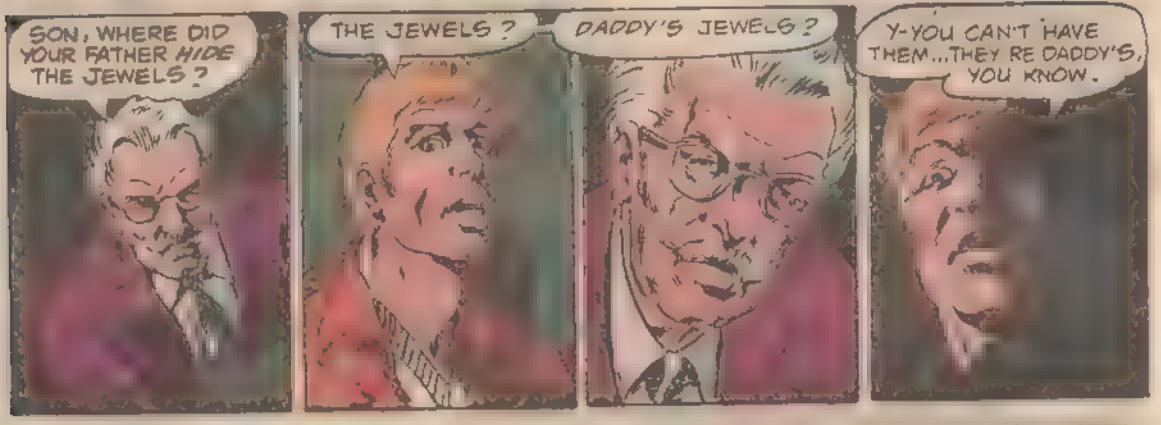
THAT WAS THIRTY FIVE YEARS AGO.
TONIGHT, AFTER RETURNING FROM THE PIER MURDER...
IF YOU WANT TO SOLVE THE WEBER JEWEL THEFT, MEET ME AT...
I KNOW I MUST BE AN OLD FOOL, BECAUSE I WENT AGAINST ALL MY TRAINING IN FOLLOWING THOSE PHONE INSTRUCTIONS,
SO, OF COURSE, I BLUNDERED INTO A TRAP...
"A TRAP SET BY A MAN WHO IS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HANK WEBER'S KILLER..."
...THAT'S RIGHT, GORDON, I'M DARYL RICHMOND'S SON -- REMEMBER, RICHMOND, GORDON? YOU SHOULD. YOU DROVE HIM MAD!
DAY AND NIGHT HE'D BABBLE ON ABOUT YOU AND THOSE JEWELS... AND LAST WEEK THAT OBSESSION FINALLY KILLED HIM--
JUST AS I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY FATHER!
HIS FATHER HAD TOLD HIM WHERE HE HID THE JEWELS... AND THAT KID--
--THAT KID WANTED ME TO WATCH HIM FIND THEM -- BEFORE HE KILLED ME.
HARD TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE IN THIS TUNNEL. THIS EXTENSION WAS NEVER COMPLETED--
--IT WAS PERMANENTLY SEALED UP IN 1945.
SUDDENLY...
COMMISSIONER!
BAM
AGGHHH! MY LEG!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WOULD BE IF I KNEW WHAT THE RICHMOND FAMILY HAS AGAINST MY LEGS!
IT TORE THROUGH... LIKE HIS FATHER'S BULLET DID.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT... AND BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING, I'M COMING WITH YOU.
I FIGURED AS MUCH. JUST HOLD ON TO ME.
I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND, BATMAN--
"I OWE THIS ONE TO HANK."
"IT MAY TAKE THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, BUT, SO HELP ME, I'LL DO GOOD FOR HIM..."
"... I'LL DO GOOD FOR HIM."
I REMEMBER THOSE TWO TUNNELS, BATMAN-- I HAD TO CHOOSE ONE IN FOLLOWING THAT KID'S FATHER.
AT LEAST THEN I HAD SOME IDEA WHICH WAY HE WENT. BUT NOW--
WE STILL HAVE AN IDEA-- LOOK. HE SLOSHED THROUGH THAT PUDDLE. YOU CAN SEE HIS WET FOOTPRINTS ON THE OTHER SIDE.
THE LEFT HAND TUNNEL.
THE VERY SAME ONE HIS FATHER TOOK. THE CHASE IS ALL BUT OVER NOW.
"I REMEMBER STALKING RICHMOND THROUGH THIS TUNNEL.. I REMEMBER HIM LAUGHING AT ME... THINKING HE COULD EASILY OUTRUN A MAN WITH A BULLET IN HIS LEG..."
"RICHMOND WAS COCKY, ALL RIGHT. SO SELF-ASSURED, SO FILLED WITH HIS OWN BRAVADO."
"I KNOW WHAT SHATTERED HIM, BATMAN--HE WAS SO SURE HE COULD ESCAPE--"
"--ONLY THEN TO REALIZE HE HAD FOOLISHLY RUN INTO A--DEAD END!"
"IT'S HARDLY ANY WONDER HE BROKE."
6

LORD, THOSE SAME LOST EYES...LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON.
DOES IT EVER END, BATMAN?
I'LL HANDLE THIS NOW, COMMISSIONER.
NO, MY FRIEND. I STARTED THIS THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO...
I'M FINISHING IT NOW.


SON, WHERE DID YOUR FATHER HIDE THE JEWELS?
THE JEWELS?
DADDY'S JEWELS?
Y-YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM...THEY RE DADDY'S, YOU KNOW.

HE STOLE 'EM FA R AND SQUARE...
...AN' HE'S JUST WAITIN' TO SPEND 'EM...SO SHINY AND BEAUTIFUL...
THEY'RE ALL HIS...ALL HIS...

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON.
GOD, WILL IT EVER END?
...ALL DADDY'S...

AFTER THE POLICE HAVE BEEN SUMMONED...
RICHMOND WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF... IN ARKHAM...
...AND THE JEWELS ARE STILL LOST.
I'VE NEVER MADE GOOD ON MY PROMISE TO POOR HANK.
THE BATMAN IS SILENT AS GORDON IS HELPED TO THE HOSPITAL...

BUT, LATER IN THE BATCAVE...
I STILL FAIL TO UNDERSTAND, SIR...
I'VE TOLD YOU THAT THE BATCAVE WAS ORIGINALLY PART OF AN OLD ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL--*
*AS REVEALED IN DETECTIVE #470.--PAUL.

--THE SAME TUNNEL RICHMOND'S FATHER BLUNDERED INTO YEARS AGO.

GORDON SAID HE HEARD AN EXPLOSION, RICHMOND MUST HAVE BURIED HIS TREASURE--
--THEN RIGGED SOME OF THE EXPLOSIVES THE WORKMEN USED IN CARVING OUT THE TUNNEL--
--TO MAKE CERTAIN THE TREASURE WOULD STAY BURIED UNTIL HE WAS FREE TO DIG IT UP.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
SIR, THIS PACKAGE JUST CAME FOR YOU.
THANK YOU, SARAH. JUST PUT IT ON MY DESK, PLEASE.

REMEMBRANCES FROM TIMES PAST. IT WAS YOUR CLUE THAT LEAD ME TO THEM.

IT'S TAKEN QUITE A WHILE, HANK... THIRTY-FIVE LONG YEARS...
I...I KNOW IT MIGHT BE LATE, BUDDY-- BUT I PRAY I'VE DONE GOOD FOR YOU AT LAST...
I JUST PRAY I'VE DONE GOOD.
THE END

Dear Editor,

After reading *BATMAN* #323, does anyone really want to see the regal Catwoman leading a life of quiet domesticity?

As Mrs. Bruce Wayne, she would merely be basking in his reflected glory and always open to ridicule and rebuke by his associates for her infamous past deeds.

And besides, who could profess a love for Catwoman, derived from an irresistible mixture of beauty, brains, and roguish brashness, and suggest such a demeaning fate for comicdom's consummate crime queen, especially on this—her 40th anniversary?

Here's hoping for 40 more, S.K.!

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, Pa. 18509

Rest assured, Jeffrey, that whatever we have in mind for Selina when she next returns, quiet domesticity has NEVER crossed our minds. Speaking of irresistible, however, another of the women in Batman's life is scheduled for a starring role in the near future, as Talia returns in #330's extra-length novel!—PL.

* * * * *

Dear People,

For what you have done to The Batman, I sentence you to stand up and take a bow.

This book has become such a beautiful piece of entertainment, that it is hard to believe that it is not just a dream. Batman has grown up quite a bit these last few years. The various writers have tried to show us more of the man and not just the enigma that he is.

I've always felt that Bruce Wayne and The Batman have been pictured as two completely separate people. These two personalities must play off of each other (as has been done lately) and not against each other.

The best scenes in *BATMAN* #323 were when The Batman confronted Selina in the opening scenes and Catwoman confronting Bruce a few panels later. These scenes (which were well thought out) showed us how much Bruce/Batman and Selina/Catwoman are alike. Selina loves Bruce and dislikes The Batman, whereas Bruce loves Selina and dislikes Catwoman.

The tragic thing about this is that both of them only love a half of what the other person really is. It is for this reason that their romance is doomed.

A major problem with this book used to be that it lacked continuity. What I mean by this is that the old Batman stories never seemed to happen in any specific order, they just happened. With the addition of subplots, each succeeding issue becomes part of one enormous story and not just scattered events. I can now look forward (somewhat impatiently) to each new issue.

In closing, I would just like to say that I have been reading Batman comics since issue number 144 and NO ONE can draw the Catwoman like Irv Novick.

Dan Haupert
1233 Somerset Lane
Schaumburg, IL 60193

New scripter Marv Wolfman promises that he'll reveal even more of the humanity of Bruce Wayne and the Batman, and has cooked up a storyline that will show it's even harder to tell where the one person begins and the other ends than we thought.—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

Re: Batman #323.

How can Bruce profess to love Selina and then actually believe that she had gone back to being The Catwoman? There really was no concrete proof of her guilt as she stated to Batman. Even the museum guard saw only a person dressed in a cat outfit who clawed his face. Anyone could've done that to frame The Catwoman. And, that seems to be exactly what happened.

Batman and Catwoman were both surprised to have been caught by the Cat-Man, but does that mean Pinch didn't tell Selina who had the urns when he directed her to that warehouse? It sure was a coincidence that Cat-Man swiped the Egyptian urns when Selina wanted them. Then again, if he heard about Selina's argument with the museum guide he probably figured that if he stole it the police would naturally blame The Catwoman.

Surely Bruce can guess that something is genuinely wrong with Selina. He sent her to see Dr. Dundee for her headaches, didn't he? So he must know that something is troubling her. All he needs from her is confirmation and a few specific details.

Karen Wu
851 Tantau Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014

As our stories made clear, in retrospect even Bruce felt that he had been unfair to Selina...but that the ever-doubting Batman aspects of his personality simply drove him on. And, of course, there was no reason to believe that anyone had a motive for framing Catwoman...or the unique aptitude of the Catman for pulling off just such a frame.—PL.

* * * * *

NEXT MONTH: "Twice Dies The Batman" when he squares off against Two Face in our lead by Marv Wolfman and Irv Novick, and then the Gotham Guardian is reunited with Robin in an added attraction featurette!—Paul Levitz.

* * * * *

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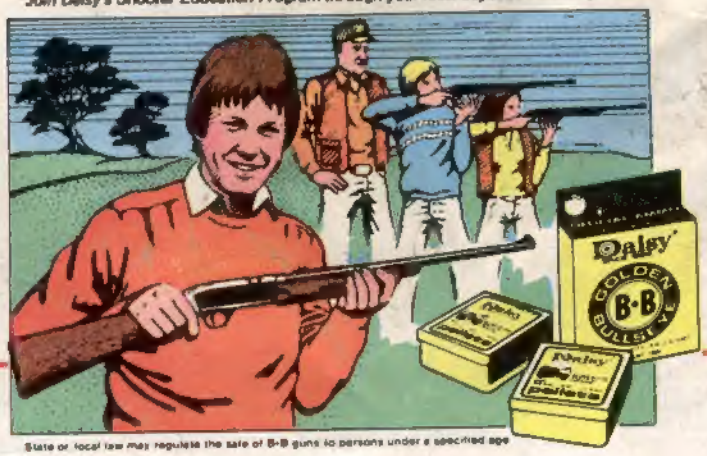

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